**OTHER CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERS**

**Rosa Parks**

Rosa Parks was instrumental in spurring on the civil rights movement in 1955. Parks boarded a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, and refused to give up her seat to a white man because the “whites only” seating area was full. Her subsequent arrest led Martin Luther King Jr. to organise the Montgomery Bus boycott of public transport, which lasted for over a year. Due to the boycott the Supreme Court ruled that segregation on public transport was unconstitutional and the bus boycott finally ended. Rosa Parks is often thought of as the mother of the modern day civil rights movement.

**John Robert Lewis**

Lewis is an American politician and civil rights leader. He is the [U.S. Representative](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_House_of_Representatives) for [Georgia's 5th congressional district](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgia%27s_5th_congressional_district), serving since 1987, and is the dean of the [Georgia congressional delegation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_congressional_delegations_from_Georgia). The district includes the northern three-quarters of [Atlanta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlanta). Lewis is the only living "[Big Six](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_Six_%28civil_rights%29)" leader of the [American Civil Rights Movement](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Civil_Rights_Movement_%281955%E2%80%931968%29), having been the chairman of the [Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Student_Nonviolent_Coordinating_Committee) (SNCC), playing a key role in the struggle to end legalized racial [discrimination](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Discrimination) and [segregation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Racial_segregation). A member of the [Democratic Party](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic_Party_%28United_States%29), Lewis is a member of the Democratic leadership of the House of Representatives and has served in the [Whip](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whip_%28politics%29) organization since shortly after his first election to the [U.S. Congress](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Congress).

**Malcolm X**

Malcolm X was a major figure in the civil rights movement and a figurehead for the Nation of Islam during the 1950s. X was a passionate and inspiring speaker who fought for independence for African-Americans using violent methods if necessary. To some, such as Martin Luther King Jr. who preached of peace, X was the flip side of the civil rights movement. If the American authorities did not want to deal with the peaceful protests of King then Malcolm X would be the alternative. However, after falling out with Nation of Islam Malcolm X’s attitude changed to that of non-violent protest for integration. Malcolm X was assassinated in 1965 by members of the Nation of Islam.

**W.E.B Du Bois**

Harvard-educated black historian and sociologist who pushed for both equal economic and social rights for African Americans in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Du Bois disagreed with other black leaders, such as Booker T. Washington, who fought only for economic equality. Du Bois also worked to develop a “black consciousness,” promoting black history, religious heritage, art, music, and culture. He also helped found the NAACP in 1909.

##### **Booker T. Washington**

President of the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama who pushed blacks to achieve economic equality with whites. Washington did not advocate immediate social equality but rather believed that economic equality would eventually bring social equality. Other black leaders, such as W. E. B. Du Bois, disagreed sharply with Washington’s views

##### **Thurgood Marshall**

Chief counsel for the NAACP who worked to rid America of the “separate but equal” doctrine that the Supreme Court had upheld in the 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson* ruling. Marshall won key victories in *Morgan v. Virginia* (1946) and *Sweatt v. Painter* (1950), but his greatest achievement was convincing the Warren Court to overturn *Plessy v. Ferguson* in the *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas* , decision (1954). Marshall later went on to become the first African-American justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

##### **Earl Warren**

Supreme Court justice appointed by conservative president Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953. Warren proved to be surprisingly liberal during his tenure as chief justice. He fully supported the quest of many blacks to end racial segregation, for example, and worked hard to get the Court to deliver a unanimous verdict in *Brown v. Board of Education* to overturn the “separate but equal” doctrine in 1954.